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## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3102

May 20, 2009

COMMITTEES:  
TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

WATER, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

HEALTH

## Support the Second Amendment

Votes YES on Section 512 of the Senate amendments to H.R. 627

Dear Colleague:

I'm writing to urge you to support Section 512 of the Senate amendments to H.R. 627.

Section 512 would allow law-abiding citizens to carry firearms in national parks and wildlife refuges as long as they comply with the law of the state in which the park or refuge is located.

Since 1983, when the Park Service first required that firearms transported in national parks be unloaded and encased, the number of Right-to-Carry states has increased from six to 40, including states with the largest tracts of national park lands. This amendment would provide continuity in gun regulation across Right-to-Carry states and across federal lands in general. Thirty-one states allow the carrying of firearms in state parks, all with satisfactory results, just as the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service allow firearms on their lands.

Some who oppose this amendment have claimed that allowing Americans to carry their firearms in national parks would allow the poaching of animals. Nothing could be further from the truth. Under current law poaching is illegal and nothing in this bill changes that, and anybody caught poaching should be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

Federal law provides misdemeanor penalties of 6 months imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine for illegal hunting on wildlife refuges (18 USC 42). Park Service regulations ban unauthorized hunting in parks (36 CFR 2.2), which is punishable by a fine, or up to 6 months in prison (36 CFR 1.3). Additionally, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act provides up to one year's imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine for poaching protected birds such as ducks and geese (16 USC).

Most poaching violations are prosecuted under state law, so they'd carry whatever penalties are provided by the state. However, under the Assimilative Crimes Act (18 USC 13), violations of state laws on federal land can be prosecuted in federal courts.

Again, I urge you to join me in supporting this important Second Amendment provision. Residents of Right-to-Carry states should not have to bear the burden of complying one set of gun laws in their neighborhood and another set of laws in a national park or wildlife refuge next door. Vote YES on Section 512.

Sincerely,

Harry Teague  
Member of Congress